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KING WINTER'S COURT

and

The Miss Springtime Company

A PLAY
OF ONE ACT IN TWO SCENES

CAN BE GIVEN BY
A DRAMATIC OR DANCE SCHOOL

BY
ALMA MATER WILSON SHAFER
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

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KING WINTER'S COURT

CHARACTERS

King Winter.
Prince Iceland—(King Winter's Son.)
Princess Snowbound—(Bethrothed to the Prince.)
Lady Sunshine—(Beloved by the Prince.)
Jack Frost.
North Wind.
End of the Rainbow.
King's Attendants—(Any number.)
Court Messenger.
Herald.
Standard Bearers.
Court Jester.
Icicles—(Prince Iceland's Attendants.)
Snowflakes—(Princess Snow's Attendants.)
Imps—The Window Painters (Jack Frost's Attendants.)
Sunbeams and Cupid—(Lady Sunshine's Attendants.)
The Court Ballet.
Premiere Danseuse.
Miss Springtime.
Manager—(of the Miss Springtime Co.)
The Springtime Ballet.
Rose
Kathryne
Ann
Elizabeth
Jane
and Delegate
(High Priestess and Incense Dancers, Train Bearers, Flower Girls, Snow Birds and Bunnies, etc.)

{ Members of the
Miss Springtime Co.
of New York City

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JUL 17 1922

KING WINTER'S COURT

NOTE

As no change in scenery is necessary, the setting should be as elaborate as possible, finishing with a snow storm. If it is desired to use the same people in both scenes, the costumes can be covered with the cape used by the Springtime Co., until such time as they can change and no waiting is necessary between scenes.

Lady S., when she first appears may be attended by a cupid dressed in gold, who dances between the Prince and Lady S., with his bow and arrow.

Lady S. and the Sunbeams wear gold costumes. The King, Prince and Princess, in white court costumes with ermine fur. The snowflakes in white with tufts of cotton sewed on and crystal bead trimming.

The King's attendants in white flannel, made Roman blouse with girdle. Jack Frost and Imps in close fitting suits covered with sparkling trimmings. The court ballet in white ballet dresses trimmed with silver ribbon, to which snowballs are attached. North Wind in grey and blue drapery. End of the Rainbow colored ballet dress. The Springtime Co., will wear dresses suitable to their particular part. The ballet can be costumed in green for one size and pink for another size. If another color is desired it could be yellow or lavender.

If necessary some of the characters can be omitted, such as North Wind, End of the Rainbow, Court Jester etc. If there is a dearth of good speaking characters in the school, the speeches in the Springtime Co., can be doubled.

The End of the Rainbow and Premiere Danseuse dress the stage in the Court scenes and dance before the King.

The author will be glad to answer any question regarding the staging, costuming and special dances used which will benefit the teacher.

SYNOPSIS

Scene I.—A snow and ice scene—with throne for King up R., a raised platform up L. for Lady Sunshine to appear upon—all covered with snow.—Prince discovered, seated on steps of throne.

Scene II.—Same as Scene I, finishing with a snow storm.

Time of Play—The play can be made to run an entire evening if a sufficient amount of material is used in the court revelry and the entertainment given by the Miss Springtime Company.

NOTE NO. 2

The entrances and exits of the King and his court, should be made very impressive. Enter down R—March to center of stage then up center to throne. The different attendants should stop before, reaching the throne separate and face each other, thus forming a pathway for the passage of the court dignitaries. The trumpeter who heralds the approach of the King should march to the left of the stage and face, holding a very military position during the assembling of the court. The standard bearers march to center separate, face each other and present arms as the King passes—then take the extreme right and left of the stage. The jester dances in front of the King and takes a place near the King on the throne.

Prince Iceland and his attendants take up their position center back. Lady Snowbound and attendants in an oblique line on the right, with the court ballet in the same formation on opposite side. Jack Frost and the Imps, dance in and face the throne, the Imps sitting until they dance out for their paint buckets. These buckets and brushes should be painted white. If Jack Frost has considerable trouble managing the Imps, it lends a touch of comedy.

The play has been arranged with the object in view of linking together the work of the school for a finishing performance and all the beautiful things learned during the year can be utilized.

KING WINTER'S COURT

SCENE I.



NOTE—Snow-birds standing in semi-circle at back of stage. They dance as curtain rises and return to places.

PRINCE—Why does my father insist on such a loveless marriage? Princess Snow is so cold and unapproachable! I don't want her for my wife and I am most unhappy.

NOTE—Chorus off stage, sings "Look for the Silver Lining," published by T. B. Harris Co., N. Y., copyrighted MCMXXI. Then have chorus dance across stage singing. Prince up stage despondent.

(Snow-birds dance again and exit.)

(Enter Lady Sunshine.)

NOTE—Speaking parts from here until the King enters are set to music of "Dance of the Robins." Published and copyrighted by Sam Fox Publishing Co., Cleveland and New York.

PRINCE—Tell me beautiful maiden, where you came from into here.

LADY S—I came from far across the ocean, from the land far o'er the sea.

PRINCE—Tell me, wonderful lady, were you happy there in that land across the sea?

LADY S—Yes, your Royal Highness, I was happy. Oh, so happy, happy there.

PRINCE—Oh, Golden Lady, if you stay not, stay not here, I'll die.

LADY S—Prince Charming, let me tell a secret. If I stay here you will die. For my rays are life and health and pleasure to lands far o'er the sea, but they're death, destruction and oblivion to all who dwell in your fair land.

PRINCE—I care not, if you'll stay here now with me.

LADY S—If you love me—on bended knee you'll vow.

PRINCE—On bended knee I vow to Heaven above, to love you, to love you through all eternity.

MESSENGER—(Entering down R.)—Sir, His Majesty, the King, bids you attend him at once.

PRINCE—I will see my father presently. (Exit Messenger.)

LADY S—I'm a very fickle lady, to this land you love so well. If you see me very often, you'll be not a charming Prince, but a little stream of water on its way down to the sea.

KING WINTER—(Entering down R, accompanied by Trumpeter.)—My son, have I not commanded you to stop this flirtation with Lady Sunshine?

LADY S—Your Majesty, blame not your son for that which he cannot help.

KING W—(Angrily)—You are our worst enemy and my son does not know the danger he is in. Leave us, I command you!

PRINCE—Stay, oh, lady fair, I beseech thee, on bended knee I—

LADY S—On bended knee? Oh, Prince, I must leave you—your father is right, but I will come again and again for a short interval—but beware Prince Charming, that you ask not too much of me. (Exit Sunshine).

PRINCE—Sir, you have taken from me the one bright spot in my life.

KING W—My son, I have sent from you that which in a short time would destroy you. "I must be cruel to be kind."

(To Trumpeter)—Go summons my ministers and all my court, that we may without delay announce the betrothal of Prince Iceland and Princess Snowbound. (Exit Trumpeter.) (Exit King.) (Prince up stage.)

PRINCESS SNOW—(Entering down L.)—Oh, woe is me! I love the Prince and he loves Lady Sunshine—I spread a mantle of white purity over all the world to delight his eye, but he sees only the golden glitter of sunshine.

PRINCE—(Coming down stage)—Princess Snow, I wish you would not follow me about so constantly. I'm tired of your white purity; I want life and warmth and happiness. (Retires up stage.)

(Princess Snow falls in despair.) (Enter Snowflakes—Dance around stage, they discover their Princess.)

A SNOWFLAKE—See our Princess where she lies! (Dance around her and help her to her feet.) (Exit.)

NOTE—(Prince recites or sings "Only a Smile." Published and copyrighted by Sam Fox Publishing Co., Cleveland and N. Y. Lady Sunshine appears, on the words, "All that I hold dear, now is drawing near." Have 2nd chorus sung by invisible choir. At finish a blare of trumpets is heard and Lady Sunshine hastily disappears.)

(Enter, the Court.)

NOTE—Enter the King, preceded by trumpeters, Messenger, Standard Bearers and Jester followed by the Prince, Princess and Jack Frost with their attendants, and all the Court.

(King seated on throne.)

KING W.—This gathering of my court is to witness the betrothal of my son Prince Iceland and the Princess Snowbound. This marriage will be in every way a fitting one for my son and I know you rejoice with me that in this union the noble character and time-honored traditions of our country will be perpetuated.

NOTE—The betrothal scene, should be as elaborate as possible, finishing with a Pavanne or a Court Dance, after which the King's Messenger reads the Royal decree.

KING'S MESSENGER—Here all ye! List to the Royal Message. It is herein set down, that the King grants his loyal subjects a half holiday in which they may make merry as best suits their wishes.

SUBJECTS—Long live the king! (Exit King and Attendants, followed by all the Court.)

NOTE—Here may be introduced dances or acts in keeping with the spirit of the play. If play is given by a dance school, the revelry may consist of a group of dances. If given by a dramatic school, anything in keeping with the nature of the play, or a mixture of song and dance may here be introduced at end of which the King again appears.

KING W.—(Enter down R.)—Preceded by trumpeters, messenger, standard bearers and jester, etc.) My faithful subjects, this is our harvest time and as this holiday is drawing to a close, we must be about our work. (To Messenger)—Call my son. (Messenger summons Prince who goes to throne.) Prince Iceland, see that all the streams are locked with ice.

PRINCE—Your commands shall be obeyed sir.

KING W.—Call Princess Snowbound. (Goes to throne.) Cover the world with your fleecy blanket,

PRINCESS S—With pleasure, I will do as you bid.

KING W—Call my not to be trusted subject, Jack Frost and his Imps—The Window Painters. (They go to throne.) Your work, sir, is to nip the nose and bite the toes of all who go abroad. You will also see that your Imps paint all windows with fantastic pictures.

JACK FROST—We will get our frost pots and brushes and will away to do your bidding. (Exit, and dances in with buckets and brushes and do eccentric dance.)

KING W—North Wind, come at my call. (Dances in.) Be about your duty, make a stir worthy of your name. (Noise of wind.)

NOTE—(Entire Court exit left on minuet step.) As the dancers leave the stage, the noise of an air plane is heard.

KING WINTER'S COURT

SCENE II.



(Enter Miss Springtime Co.)

NOTE—Enter Miss Springtime Co. from up L, speaking characters first, followed by chorus. If it is necessary to use the same people as in Scene I, use a cape to cover, until such time as they can change costume.

MANAGER—My goodness. I wonder where we have landed! its very beautiful but I'm afraid we will all freeze to death.

MISS SPRINGTIME—Its a pity we had not been less sure of landing in a few hours at our next appointment.

ROSE—Yes, and its a pity we didn't wear more clothes for I'm sure we would enjoy this place much more.

KATHRYNE—Well, let's stir around and find out where we go from here.

ANN—It would be well for you to be careful that you don't slide over an icy precipice or you'll find out right suddenly, where you go from here.

ELIZABETH—I see some objects approaching in the distance.

ROSE—Well, let them approach, they can't hurt us—for I'm convinced the worst fate a human being can meet up here, is freezing, and thus becoming a small part of this artistic landscape.

ANN—Well, why not? I'm sure one could meet a worse fate than being a frosty sparkling object like these all through eternity; the thought of where one might go should give us pause. (Pointing down.)

ROSE—Say, look here. I suppose you are talking about yourself. —For myself I have no intention of either burning or freezing. If I ever get out of this, and get to California, I'll marry the first good-looking chap I meet and spend the remainder of my life in the sylvan glades of that fair land.

JANE—What! Quit being an actress to just marry a man?

KATHRYNE—How could she quit being something she never was? And no man has asked her to marry him yet.

ROSE—If my hands weren't so cold, I'd box your ears, but I'm afraid of cracking them off like an icicle.

KATHRYNE—Well, a few more icicles would make no difference in this country—if any one wants to give me something though let it be a nice hot fire.

MANAGER—There is one thing certain to my mind. These objects that are approaching are acclimated, for they seem to be a merry bunch of snow and ice.

MISS SPRINGTIME—I wonder if they will devour us or receive us with open arms.

JANE—Maybe they haven't any arms, you talk as though they were human beings.

ROSE—Well, I, for one, don't care what they are—human beings, animal beings or vegetable beings, if they will only show me some way of getting warm.

MANAGER—The thing for you people to do is to stop your fussing and prepare to meet this situation with a bold and united front.

(Noise of approaching wind and snow.) (Action of Chorus getting colder.) (Enter King and Attendants.)

KING—Who has thus invaded our sacred land?

ELIZABETH—Mercy me! It looks like a real King and his Court.

KING—Young lady you guessed right. I am King Winter and these are my subjects, and this my country, o'er which I hold undisputed sway.

MISS SPRINGTIME—Your Majesty, we are the Miss Springtime Co., of New York City, on our way to the coast.

KING—Coast say you, what coast?

MANAGER—Well, Sir, in our country we call it the Western Coast. We played in New York City yesternight and should be playing in San Francisco tonight. Instead, we were diverted from our course by a terrible snow storm and landed here to get our bearings and repair our flying machine.

MISS SPRINGTIME—We ask hospitality in your most beautiful country, until such time as we can continue our journey.

KING—My ministers will confer and will then send a representative of the government to tell you the decision as to what disposition will be made of you. (Exit King.)

ROSE—Well of all the colossal nerve! I guess he won't dispose of us in such wholesale fashion, one of us will go to this confab and watch developments. (Exit company.)

(Enter Sunshine and Sunbeams.) (They dance and exit.) (Enter members of Springtime Co.)

JANE—It is not quite so cold, do you think?

ROSE—Of course it isn't—the Sun has been out and warmed things up a bit. I hope she will stick around—One can certainly appreciate the Sun's rays, in this ice-bound country.

MISS SPRINGTIME—Well, I can stand it somehow, if that North Wind just stays away.

(Enter King's Herald and delegate from Springtime Co.)

HERALD—We bring a message from the King.

DELEGATE—What do you think that old reprobate of a King wants?

ELIZABETH—Couldn't guess, what is it?

DELEGATE—He has decided that, as we are a troop of actors from New York, he will see our show and if it amuses him, we can stay until our plane is fixed—if it does not amuse him, we are to be pushed over the edge into space.

ROSE—Of all the nerve! Take off what little covering we have, and perform in this Zero atmosphere.

ANN—You can have your choice of performing or—(action of pushing over the edge.)

KATHRYNE—Nuff sed! Let's get busy and do our best to satisfy him, and I'll ask him for a nice hot stove for my reward.

JANE—Yes, you have a happy chance of getting it.

MANAGER—Here, you are fussing again! Now as manager of this company, I order you all to your icy dressing rooms, and we will start our performance at once. (Exit all but Manager and Herald.)

(To Herald)—Notify the King that we are ready to comply with his wishes and will start our performances at once, upon the assembling of His Majesty's Court. (Exit Herald.) (Enter King and Attendants.)

NOTE—After they have grouped themselves about the throne, the entertainment will start using the small children first. Any number of dances, songs and readings can be introduced here. At the finish, the noise of the air plane is heard and the Co. enter—

MISS SPRINGTIME—The plane! The plane! The engines are running. We need not wait for His Majesty's decision.

CHORUS—We are here today and gone tomorrow
Via our airplane.

We leave New York and land on this
Just to find not much amiss.

We will sail away and land near the bay,
And look the landscape o'er—

If we like it there some better than here,

We will stay there for alway,

(Set to tune of Chorus. "There's a Sunbeam." Published and
copyrighted by Leo Feist, N. Y.)

MESSENGER—(Stepping to front of stage)—Dear friends, our
play is finished. If we have pleased, then we have minds at ease.
Your liberal applause was a source of pleasure, it helped to keep
our feet in measure. And as we appear from year to year before our
own home people, we hope to grow in grace of movement, seeking
always some improvement.

We are grateful beyond our power to express—King Winter's
Court and The Miss Springtime Co.

(Repeat Chorus.)

(CURTAIN)



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